Farmland owners should have liberties to do farming and grow crops under the protection of existing laws, orders and directives

NAY PYI TOW, 12 July—At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, seven MPs held discussions on farmland report which was discussed yesterday.

U Myat Thein of Bogale Constituency said that Investigation Commission’s report findings are based on actual events on the ground. The Union government should take action over commission’s suggestions. He urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve commission’s undertakings and suggestions to be in accord with Section 228 of the Constitution if necessary for the interests of the farmers who had to suffer losses.

Daw Khin San Hlaing

KOICA hands over Pilot Project of WFK-Volunteer to ITC in Patheingyi

KOICA has dispatched over 130 volunteers to Myanmar and currently 19 WFK-Volunteers and 3 World Friends Advisors are performing their voluntary works at respective organizations under Myanmar government ministries.

Byline: Wun Yan Kha (Tekkatho)

KOICA-Volunteer Ms. Woo Yeon Ju explained the purpose of the project which includes IT training center and supporting essential lab equipments.

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Kawthoung-Bokpyin road repair starts

Yangon, 12 July — Staff members of Yangon City Development Committee Engineering (Road and Bridge) Department carried out drainage works for proper flow of water around No (15) Basic Education Primary School and school environment sanitation.

Drainage works carried out in Shwepyitha Tsp

YANGON, 12 July—Public Works under the Ministry of Construction has started repair of Kawthoung-Bokpyin road in Karathuri Sub-Township in Kawthaung District in Taninthayi Region. The repair of the road destroyed by the bad weather started on 9 July.

The repair on 300-ft road section with the use of heavy machinery is being directed by U Hla Min Than, sub-township in-charge engineer of Public Works.

The road is the major one for transportation of commodity and was damaged by heavy rains.

The Public Works is paving gravel on the muddy road.

MMAL-Karathuri IPRD

Wife killed as boat capsizes during married couple’s boat trip in Bogale Township

BOGALE, 12 July — A married couple got caught in a rollover accident during their boat ride in the middle of the river near Myitsan village in Bogale Township of Ayeyawady Region. The accident occurred at around 9 am on 24 June and the wife lost her life in the tragic accident. The boat carrying U Thein Oo, 37, and Ma Khu Htoo was drowned and disappeared at the scene, but her husband survived.

Her dead body with no external injuries was discovered in Kyonkan creek near Kansu village at 8 am on 26 June and police was informed of the case. According to initial investigation, police ruled that she died of drowning.

Setsan police station opened the case and further investigation is ongoing whether there is foul play or not.

Kyemon-Pathein Hla Kyi

Construction worker dies from electrocution in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 12 July — A fatal accident in which a construction worker died of electrocution occurred around 11.15 am on 6 July at a construction site on the plot No (310) in Daewun (west) ward in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay.

U Win Hsaung, a mason, 50, lost his life as he slipped and fell to power lines while performing his work on the roof of the under-construction house of U Ko Ko Maung on 90th street between 33rd and 34th streets in the ward. Due to the accident, he was pronounced dead on the spot at the scene.

The dead body was taken to a hospital and No (6) police station is making investigation into the case.

Kyemon-002

Myaing school girls hurt in sudden wall collapse

MYAING, 12 July — A sudden collapse happened to a wall at Bahin Basic Education High School in Myaing Township of Magway Region at about 10.30 am on 8 July.

No information was immediately available about the sudden collapse of the wall of the school building, but four school girls sustained injuries in the accident. Now the victims are being treated at Bahin station hospital.

Kyemon-Magway Hla Myint
Ainu party gives up fielding candidates in upper house election

SAPPORO, 12 July—A political party launched in January last year to better represent Japan’s indigenous Ainu people, has given up its plan to field 10 candidates in the 21 July House of Councillors election after failing to collect sufficient campaign funds.

The Ainu Party of Japan does not meet the legal requirements for constituting a “political party” and thus needed to put down a deposit of 60 million yen and run at least 10 candidates in the 21 July poll to compete in proportional representation constituencies. While the party was counting on donations, little money has been raised. Few people have volunteered to be candidates as well.

Shiro Kayano, leader of the Ainu Party of Japan, is pictured in Biraruto, Hokkaido in northern Japan, on 28 June, 2013. His party, launched in January 2012 to better represent Japan’s indigenous Ainu people, has given up its plan to field 10 candidates in the 21 July House of Councillors election after failing to collect sufficient campaign funds.—KYODO NEWS

UK parliament wins veto over any decision to arm Syrian rebels

LONDON, 12 July — Britain’s parliament backed a motion on Thursday requiring Prime Minister David Cameron to give it a veto over any future move to arm Syrian rebels, in a symbolic vote the government said it would heed. Britain says it has not yet taken any decision to arm rebels fighting to topple President Bashar al-Assad, but its role in helping to lift a European Union arms embargo on Syria in May fuelled speculation it was planning to do just that.

The lower house of parliament voted by 114 to 1 to back a motion requiring the government to seek its “explicit prior consent” for any future decision to provide lethal assistance.

Though symbolic, the move is significant as it means Cameron will find it almost impossible not to give parliament a vote on the issue, something government sources say would amount to an effective veto over any decision to supply arms.

Ministers expect the 650-member lower house to vote against sending arms if the issue arises, said one government source.

Many lawmakers in Cameron’s Conservative Party say they are worried about a decision to arm the moderate opposition in Syria would escalate and widen the conflict and risk weapons falling into the hands of Islamist extremists.

“The government has discussed the option of arming the rebels. This would be a major policy change. This debate allows us to mark the government’s card,” said John Baron, a Conservative lawmaker who secured Thursday’s vote.

No sign automatic equipment failed in San Francisco crash

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 July—There are no signs of failure of the autopilot or other key automatic flight equipment on the Asiana plane that crashed in San Francisco last week, the head of National Transportation Safety Board said on Thursday.

“There is no anomalous behaviour of the autopilot, of the flight director, and of the auto-throttles, based on the FDR (flight data recorder) data reviewed to date,” NTSB Chairwoman Debra Hartt Hersman told a news conference, referring to the flight data recorder from the Boeing 777.

The plane, carrying 291 passengers and 16 crew from Seoul to San Francisco, hit a seawall in front of the runway on Saturday, killing two passengers and injuring 180 others.

The tail section of an Asiana Airlines plane hit a seawall in front of the runway at San Francisco International airport, and initial information from the NTSB investigation shows that it was flying much too slowly in the final stages of the approach.

The plane’s pilots have said in interviews with the NTSB that an electronic control known as an auto-throttle had been set to keep the plane flying at the proper speed, according to Hersman, and it remains unclear why the jet lost speed and why the pilots failed to notice the problem.

Hersman said the cockpit voice recorder showed that none of the three pilots on the flight deck said anything about speed until about 9 seconds before the crash. One of the pilots did raise a concern about “sink rate,” or the speed of descent, prior to that, but Hersman did not provide further details.

The charred wreckage of the plane will be cut up and removed from the airport runway beginning on Thursday evening, Hersman said. A final report on the crash will likely come in about a year.

In five detailed Press briefings since the crash, Hersman has painted a picture of a flight crew that inexplicably failed to correct a doomed approach as the plane came in too low, too slow and off-centre on a clear day with little wind. She has declined to speculate on the cause of the crash. The briefings have drawn criticism from an airline pilots union and others who say the release of so much information from flight recorders and other sources at an early stage of the investigation has unfairly suggested the pilots were at fault. The pilot flying the plane when it crashed was still in training for the Boeing 777, and the instructor pilot who was in charge of the aircraft was on his first flight as a trainer.

Berlusconi’s legal troubles slow Italian government action

ROME, 12 July—Italy’s government is fighting against political instability after a 10-party centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi’s centre-right party suggested pulling support of the fragile coalition, referring to the murder of former prime minister and former prime minister is banned from office. Though Berlusconi reassured on Thursday that his People of Freedom (PdL) party will continue to support Prime Minister Enrico Letta’s government, political debate has been centered on his legal troubles since the highest court decided earlier this week to move up hearings in a fraud case, in which the 76-year-old was appealing a ban from public office.

On Wednesday, some outraged PdL members secured a one-day halt to parliamentary activity and threatened to resign if their leader’s verdict is upheld, which could mean the end of Berlusconi’s two-decade political career.
Ballmer tightens grip on Microsoft with major revamp

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 July—Microsoft Corp’s sweeping re-organization on Thursday creates a company that, more than ever, bears the stamp of Chief Executive Steve Ballmer. The face of Microsoft since he took the reins from co-founder Bill Gates in 2000, Ballmer stressed the importance of improving internal collaboration and eliminating redundancies when he released the company’s new organizational blueprint.

But some analysts say the changes also mean less leeway for Microsoft’s individual businesses to set and pursue their own agendas, as the company imposes a more streamlined, top-down approach to its strategy and operations. For all the changes promised, the move reinforces Ballmer’s grip on the company’s direction and further muddies the succession picture. “There’s still no heir apparent or any succession strategy that has become apparent,” said David Smith, an analyst with industry research firm Gartner. “It sounds like he wants to run it in a more centralized style.” That Ballmer, 57, who presided over a decade of share price stagnation and was deemed slow to respond to mobile computing, remains more entrenched may worry investors and spur concern that the reorganization will truly effect change.

“[In theory, it’s a great idea. The key question will be can Ballmer deliver this in new model and can it be successful,” said Channing Smith, co-manager of the Capital Advisors Growth Fund, which does not own Microsoft shares. “With his track record, it will be question mark for investors going forward.”

Microsoft is the world’s No 1 software company, whose $74 billion in annual revenue is powered largely by its dominant role in the PC business via its flagship Windows and Office software. But the company has been caught flat-footed by new trends such as mobile computing, where software by Google Inc and Apple Inc lead the pack, as well as by Web-based “cloud” services. Investors credit Ballmer for expanding the Windows and Office franchises and growing Microsoft into one of the world’s largest technology corporations.

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer speaks during his keynote address at the Microsoft “Build” conference in San Francisco, California on 26 June, 2013. —Reuters

Nokia pins recovery hopes on advanced camera smartphone

A man takes pictures with Nokia’s new smartphone, the Lumia 1020 with a 41-megapixel camera, after its unveiling in New York on 11 July, 2013. —Reuters

NEW YORK / (Helsinki), 12 July—Nokia on Thursday introduced a new smartphone, the Lumia 1020, with a powerful 41-megapixel camera in its latest bid to catch up with rivals Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Apple Inc. Tech bloggers responded enthusiastically, saying the camera quality was the highest in the market.

But analysts questioned whether it was enough to help Nokia, suffering a fall in cash reserves after years of poor sales, survive. “The hardware’s a beauty on this thing,” said Stephen Elop, a former CEO of Nokia, to reporters at the annual Allen and Co media conference in Sun Valley, Idaho Resort on 11 July, 2013. —Reuters

New York / (Helsinki), 12 July—Fiber optic network provider Level 3 Communications Inc said a 2003 network security agreement signed by its unit Global Crossing did not include any provision for unauthorized surveillance by US government agencies. The Washington Post reported last week that the deal allowed Team Telecom, a collection of US government agencies, to access data transferred through Global Crossing’s fiber-optic backbone that connects several countries. Level 3 said on Thursday that the 2003 deal was superseded by a new agreement that it had reached with Team Telecom in 2011, when it acquired Global Crossing. “There is no provision in the terminated or existing network security agreement that permits the US government to compel Level 3, or require Level 3 in any way, to cooperate in unauthorized surveillance on US or foreign soil,” the company said. It said the agreement does require it to comply with “lawful US process,” under applicable law. The Washington Post reported said the deal and others like it allowed US government agencies to seek and gain access to the vast amounts of data flowing through such networks. —Reuters

Level 3 says Global Crossing deal with US did not allow for snooping

Sun Valley, (Idaho), 12 July—The relationship between Google Inc and Apple Inc has improved over the past year with the rival technology companies and sometimes partners conducting “lots and lots” of meetings, Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt said.

Schmidt did not provide details about the nature of the meetings during comments to reporters at the annual Allen and Co media conference in Sun Valley, Idaho on Thursday. He noted that Google Chief Business Officer Nikesh Arora, who joined him at the press briefing, was leading many of the discussions. The two companies are in “constant business discussions on a long list of issues,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt once sat on Apple’s board of directors, but the relationship between the two companies has frayed as competition has increased. Apple created the smartphone market with its iconic iPhone, but Google’s Android mobile software is now featured on three of every four smartphones sold globally. Apple has sought to lessen its reliance on Google’s online services, most recently in 2012 when it dumped Google’s Maps product in favour of its own mapping software. Apple’s maps service however proved to be riddled with errors, and Google ended up updating its map application for the latest version of Apple’s iPhone.

The world’s No 1 Internet search company, Google has moved to extend its reach into new markets in recent years, acquiring mobile phone maker Motorola Mobility, offering high-speed Internet service in a few US cities and developing wearable computers and technology for self-driving cars. Schmidt said that Google’s self-driving automobile technology was years, rather than decades away from commercial availability but that “the exact way in which it all plays out is not obvious to me.” —Reuters

Google’s Schmidt says relationship with Apple has improved

Beijing, 12 July—A Chinese institute has successfully developed a camera featuring a 100-megapixel charge-coupled device (CCD) chip, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced on Wednesday. It is currently China’s highest pixel camera, the academy said in a statement. The camera, IOES-Kanban, was developed by the Institute of Optics and Electronics under the CAS and is capable of producing images with 10,240 x 10,240 pixels, the statement said.

Moreover, it is small and light, with its widest part measuring only 19.3 cm, the statement said, adding that it can be used at temperatures ranging from minus 20 degrees centigrade to 55 degrees centigrade. Its high sensitivity and high dynamic range (HDR) features mean it will be useful in high-resolution imaging in the fields of aerial mapping, city planning, disaster monitoring and intelligent transportation systems, the statement said.

The statement said the camera is equipped with advanced optical systems, camera control systems and high-capacity data recording systems, and it has proven successful in a recent trial use as part of a national aerial remote-sensing system. According to the statement, the institute also developed an 81-megapixel camera during the 10th Five Year Plan period (2001-2005), and the latest achievement took the researchers two years to develop. —Xinhua

China develops 100-megapixel camera

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Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer speaks during his keynote address at the Microsoft “Build” conference in San Francisco, California on 26 June, 2013. —Reuters

A man takes pictures with Nokia’s new smartphone, the Lumia 1020 with a 41-megapixel camera, after its unveiling in New York on 11 July, 2013. —Reuters
New York, 12 July — Sprint Corp (Sw.N) on Thursday offered unlimited data services for the lifetime of an account, as the No. 3 US wireless operator looks to lure customers away from bigger rivals Verizon Wireless and AT&T Inc (T.N).

The announcement came just a day after SoftBank Corp (9984.T) closed its $21.6 billion purchase of 78 percent of Sprint and two days after Sprint closed its buyout of Clearwire Corp.

Sprint promises a lifetime of unlimited data service

US launches patent probe into Sany’s products

WASHINGTON, 12 July — The US International Trade Commission (USITC) initiated a Section 337 investigation on Thursday into Chinese multinational heavy machinery manufacturing company Sany for patent infringement. The probe is grounded on a complaint filed by Manitowoc Cranes, LLC in the US state of Wisconsin on 12 June, 2013, the USITC said in a statement.

Manitowoc Cranes accused Sany and its US entity of infringing its patents related to mobile cranes that use variable position counterweight (VPC) technology to improve operation and use of the cranes.

The US company requested an exclusion order and “cease and desist” orders, according to the federal bipartisan panel. Should the complaint be approved, the panel will issue remedial orders, such as a ban of accused products.

There are no responses to the charge so far on Sany’s websites.

Psychological benefits for inmates doing yoga: Oxford study

LONDON, 12 July — Yoga can improve the mood and mental wellbeing of prisoners, and may also have an effect on impulsive behaviour, an Oxford University study published on Thursday suggests.

Reported their findings in the Journal of Psychiatric Research, researchers said prisons see rates of mental health problems that are many times higher than the general population. Inmates from a range of ages were randomly assigned to either a course of ten weekly yoga sessions of 90 minutes, or to a control group.

“We found that the group that did the yoga course showed an improvement in positive mood, a decrease in stress and greater accuracy in a computer test of impulsivity and attention,” said Dr Amy Bilderbeck, who led the study.

If yoga is associated with improving behaviour control, as suggested by the results of the computer test, there may be implications for managing aggression, antisocial or problem behaviour in prisons and on return to society, researchers noted. —Xinhua

Eating fruits and vegetables tied to longer life

NEW YORK, 12 July — Eating fewer than five servings of fruit and vegetables each day is linked with a higher chance of dying early, according to a large study from Sweden. People who said they never ate fruit and vegetables died an average of three years sooner than those who ate plenty of apples, carrots and tomatoes, researchers found. Many public health organizations worldwide recommend eating five servings of fruit and vegetables a day, but previous studies have been inconclusive on whether meeting that guideline helps improve health and by how much, researchers said.

The new study, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, shows the five-a-day recommendations are optimal, said Alicia Wilk, who worked on the research at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Her team did not find any improvement in survival for people who ate more than five servings of fruit and vegetables each day, compared to those who just met the guideline. The results are based on data collected from more than 71,000 Swedes, aged 45 to 83, who were followed for 13 years. Participants were surveyed about their diets in 1997 and 1998 and reported how often they ate fruit — including oranges, apples, bananas and berries — and vegetables, such as carrots, beets, lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes and pea soup. Nearly 11,500 of those enrolled had died by December 2010.

Wilk’s team found that people who had reported eating no fruit or vegetables at the start of the study were 53 percent more likely to die during the follow-up period than those who got their five daily servings. —Reuters
**China, US to start substantive BIT negotiations soon**

WASHINGTON, 12 July—China and the United States agreed to start the substantive discussions of the China-US Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) as soon as possible, Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng said here on Thursday.

“Investment is an important area of China-US economic cooperation. It is a mutual concern of both parties, and both parties need to have creative thinking in order to create convenient conditions for the mutually beneficial cooperation between businesses of the two countries,” Gao told reporters at a press briefing during the ongoing fifth round of the China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) starting on Wednesday.

“Both sides need to respect each other’s concerns and pragmatically promote the negotiation of the BIT,” stressed Gao.

Both sides jointly reviewed the progress made in the first nine rounds of BIT negotiations, clarified their notes on the technical terms of the treaty, and agreed to enter into a “substantive stage” of BIT negotiations as soon as possible, he said, without giving a specific timetable of the upcoming negotiations.

High-ranking economic and trade officials from both countries including Gao on Wednesday discussed a wide range of topics including the BIT negotiations, intellectual property rights protection and investment review during the ongoing talks.

China and the United States have been holding the annual S&ED talks since 2009. The talks were expected to continue until early Friday. China and the United States have been holding the annual S&ED talks since 2009. The talks were expected to continue until early Friday. The two-day dialogue is expected to cover various topics including cooperation in the fields of strategic and economic development, trade and investment, finance, technology cooperation, science and education, environment and climate change, and human rights.

**Brazilian president announces spending increase on health, education**

BRASILIA, 12 July—Brazil’s President Dilma Rousseff on Wednesday announced a spending increase of 3 billion Brazilian reals (1.325 billion US dollars) for cities to bolster healthcare and education, two public services that were the cause of massive protests last month.

She made the announcement during the 16th Rally for Municipality Defence in Brasilia, where 4,000 prefects (local authorities) from around the country took part. The increase will be doled out in two parts, the first in August and the second in April 2014, and is earmarked to pay for doctors and teachers, and other expenses in local healthcare and education services.

The measure is one of the several the government is taking in response to the wave of protests that rocked Brazil in the past few weeks, where more than a million Brazilians demanded better public services and an end to corruption. Rousseff also announced an increase in the so-called Basic Healthcare Floor that brings the yearly total spent on the programme to 600 million reals (265 million dollars). The government will additionally invest 3.2 billion reals (some 1.325 billion dollars) to build 2,000 daycare centres, she said. This is in addition to the plans to increase investment in various sectors including healthcare announced by the president on Monday, who said then the government is investing 7.4 billion Brazilian reals (some 3.274 billion US dollars) to build new hospitals, as well as changing and buying new equipment, and next year it would invest another 5.5 billion reals (some 2.433 billion dollars) for new health units.

**Syria opposition denies Russian chemical attack allegation**

UNITED NATIONS, 12 July—The opposition Syrian National Coalition on Wednesday denied a Russian charge that rebel fighters fired a projectile laden with the nerve agent sarin at a suburb of Aleppo in March, saying UN inspectors should be allowed to investigate the attack.

Separately, Western diplomats said Russia blocked a draft UN Security Council resolution this week calling for a stalled UN chemical weapons investigation team to be allowed to visit Syria and to be permitted to conduct an “objective” inquiry.

The United Nations said in a statement that the head of the UN chemical arms team, Ake Sellstrom of Sweden, and UN disarmament chief Angela Kane have accepted an invitation from the Syrian government to discuss their investigation of alleged chemical attacks in Syria.

Rusia, along with Iran, is Syria’s closest ally and chief arms supplier. The draft resolution echoed a recent statement by the Group of Eight (G8)—the developed nations including Russia. “The Free Syrian Army strongly condemns all usage of chemical weapons against a civilian population and denies Russia’s allegations about the FSA using chemical weapons in Khan Al-Asaad, Aleppo,” said Saleh, a spokesman for the National Coalition for a Democratic Civilian Authority.

“The opposition regime has the know-how, capability and willingness to use these weapons,” Saleh said, referring to Syrian President Bashar al-Asaad. “The coalition and supreme military council have asked for the UN monitors to come to Syria to investigate the use of these weapons and the Assad regime refuses to allow them to do so,” he said.

Russia’s UN envoy, Vitaly Churkin, on Tuesday said Russian scientific analysis strongly indicated a projectile containing sarin that hit Khan Al-Asaad on 19 March, killing 26 civilians and military personnel, was fired by rebels.

The government and rebels have blamed each other for that incident, as well as numerous other alleged chemical attacks. Both sides deny using chemical weapons.

“The usage of chemical weapons is inconsistent with the guiding principles and goals of the Syrian revolution,” Saleh said. “Targeting civilians indiscriminately to achieve political gains is a common characteristic of the Assad regime.”

The United States has cast doubt on the Russian analysis of the Khan Al-Asaad incident and, along with France, called for full UN access to Syrian sites where chemical weapons use was suspected.

The United Nations says as many as 100,000 have died in the two-year civil war. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior Western diplomat also expressed skepticism about the Russian claim that the rebels were behind the Khan Al-Asaad attack.

**Strikes close highways, ports in Brazil**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 July—A series of strikes organized by trade unions on Thursday resulted in the blockade of important highways and three of Brazil’s largest ports.

Brazil’s most important port of Santos, and other two large ports of Itaguaí and of Suzape were blocked for several hours with trucks with cargo unable to reach the port area, according to reports collected here. The Dutra highway linking Brazil’s largest cities—Rio and Sao Paulo—was closed to over 20 other highways all over the country, the reports said.

Bus and subway workers’ unions in some state capitals such as Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre joined the strikes, leaving people in these cities without public transportation to go to work. Teachers’ associations also joined the strikes, some so schools and universities had their classes suspended.

Unions are scheduled to take place in late afternoon and evening in several cities.

The unions’ demands include changes in security regulations, reduction in work hours, and better salaries for retired workers and pension beneficiaries.

In June, Brazil was swept by hundreds of protests.
Mandalay-Lashio Highway upgraded

Patheingyi, 12 July—The section of Mandalay-Lashio Highway between Nadaungkyaw Creek in Ohnchaw Village in Patheingyi Township crossing bridge and plain road junction is being expanded to 41-ft-wide road with the use of heavy machinery. Asia World Company is working on digging drains and building sidewalks. The busy Mandalay-Lashio road is one of major road for border trade.—MMAL-Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheingyi)

Tachilek gets five more traffic lights

Tachilek District Deputy Commissioner launched the traffic lights. “The increase in number of vehicles follows the economic boom. There used to be traffic jams as there was the only traffic light on Bogyoke Aung San road,” a townswelder at the ceremony said.

The source suggested the installation of lamp posts as the night-time accidents caused injuries. The installation of the new five traffic lights cost K 40 million and was funded by Shan State Government. MMAL-Maung Yin Kyae

Toungoo-Yangon Saytaman express bus overruns

Toungoo, 12 July—Saytaman Express Bus running along the road from Toungoo to Yangon overturned between mile posts 14/3 and 14/5 on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway at 1.30 pm yesterday, said an official of Expressway Police Station No 3.

Six men and seven women, totalling 13 sustained injuries in the incident and the unseriously injured were rushed to Hlegu Township Hospital. A total of 432 traffic accidents caused on the expressway from May 2009 to April 2013, leaving 216 dead and 678 injured, according to the releases from the Expressway Police Force Commander’s Office.

The Yangon-Mandalay expressway was commissioned into service in 2009. The facility has two 25-foot wide motorways on either side. The length of the ex-pressway accounts for 1.5 per cent of 150,221 kilometres long roads across the nation.—H

Dimawhso harvests Paletthwe model plot

Dimawhso, 12 July—A ceremony to harvest a model plot of Paletthwe summer paddy in Hopheik village in model 6-mile village-tract in Dimawhso Township in Kayah State was organized on 6 July morning.

It was attended by Kayah State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Poe Yei Yan Aung, Head of State Agriculture Department, state/district/ township departmental officials, and farmers. Officials gave educative talks on choosing the right strains, GAP, and the use of fertilizers at the ceremony. The one-acre farm plot yield 303.6 baskets. Kayah State put 5501 acres of farmlands under summer paddy with 471 acres under Paletthwe paddy. MMAL-Township IPRD

YCDC sets to install CCTV at traffic lights

Yangon, 12 July—CCTV cameras will be installed extensively in 150 traffic lights in Yangon, according to a transport official. CCTV cameras have been installed at only above 40 traffic lights to monitor undisciplined vehicles.

To enforce the traffic rules and to ease traffic jams, Yangon City Development Committee (Road and Bridge) will extend CCTV cameras in traffic lights. “It seems the traffic jams would be eased when CCTV cameras are installed,” a commuter said. MMAL-Shwe Htoo

Wellwishers donate cash for medical equipment and furnishings

Pyinmana, 12 July—Wellwishers donated cash for medical equipment and furnishings of Pyinmana 200-bed hospital at the donation ceremony in the meeting hall of the hospital on 9 July.

The Ministry of Transport Women’s Affairs Organization donated K 200,000, Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai, K 260,000. Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi, Surgeon Dr Myant Naung, Pediatrician Dr Khin Swe Oo accepted donations. MMAL-145

Pre-SEA Games billboard erected in Myeik

Myeik, 12 July—Pre-SEA Games public awareness raising billboard was erected in front of Myeik Indoor Stadium in Kanbya Myayni road in Myeik by Myeik Township Sports and Physical Education Department on 10 July. The billboards are being erected across the nation ahead of the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar for the first time in history on 11-22 December. The billboard is aimed at raising public awareness for the Pre-SEA Games activities. MMAL-Moe Hein (Myeik)
Challenger in the ring

Almost everybody is proud of his or her birthplace, or native place. So am I. My native town, Wadehoma is not an insignificant and ordinary town but a well-known town which has produced many famous artists, vocalists and writers. Whenever one talks about Wadehoma, one never fails to hear mention of (Daw) Khin Hnin Yu, a well-known novelist who was brought up in Thawka Village, Wadehoma Township in Ayeyawady Region. Fiction is the main forte of the contemporaries who have read the novel "Hnway", one of Khin Hnin Yu’s masterpieces are quite familiar within the Village. In reality, Thawka Village, where famous Thawka Pagoda is situated and famous writer Khin Hnin Yu are inseparable. When Thawka Pagoda festival was held, we had nice time, riding posh cars or walking or participating in musical troopers. Normally, when we visited the pagoda even on a scorching day, we did not need to bring hats or umbrellas. As the shady lebbek trees known as rain-trees were grown on either side of the street leading to the pagoda, we could tirelessly walk to the pagoda. Wehardly saw even spot of sunlight or sunbeam when we were under those shady trees. When we were in our childhood, we used to play tag along the street with the shady trees which made the village pleasant.

As chance would have it, I paid a visit to Thawka Village and Thawka Pagoda when I reached my birthplace this summer. To my surprise, the lebbek trees which made the village and the pagoda pleasant and more graceful were completely depleted. They vanished not because of the Cyclone Nargis or other natural disasters. I learnt that the local greed, the pagoda and they were felled. I was flabbergasted.

In the Upper Myanmar, we usually see the placcards saying, "Felling a tree will lead to three years of imprisonment.” I do not want to brood over such losses but man must know the great value of trees.

Drink for a day’s joy; Marry for a month’s enjoyment; Plant a tree for life-long happiness.

So goes the saying. Some say that it is a Chinese saying. Others say that its origin is Myanmar. It’s no matter to us whether the saying is Myanmar or not. The essence is quite beneficial to the environment and human beings.

Today, the global warming and climate changes are the challenges in the environmental conservation. Global warming is causing more and more deforestation, resulting in climatic changes. Moreover, the world is now facing such natural disasters as soil depletion, floods, storms and desertification. Scientists say that the main cause of global warming is an increase in the greenhouse effect which is vital for the existence of living things. As we talk about global warming, we cannot ignore the role forests and trees play in regulating climates. As the month of July is designated as Myanmar’s Arbour Month, it reminds us of our childhood days during which we grew trees in the school precincts. We grew trees, flowery plants and fruit trees. We did so because growing trees and landscaping plants in the school compound and gardens could create a healthy atmosphere. Moreover, by growing vegetables and fruit trees in the school compound, a school can earn income.

In July today, the rainy season tree planting ceremonies for greening the land will be held the length and breadth of the nation. And ceremonies to collectively plant trees to mark the World Arbour Day will also be held. Local organizations together with the public will actively be participating in such activities as planting trees for region-wise greening and conservation of forests and bio-diversity as well as protecting endangered wildlife and rare trees. The thriving of trees, indeed, regulates the weather.

Men and trees are inseparable, depending on each other. Trees help conserve soil and water. In open counties, trees act as windbreaks and keep the wind from blowing away topsoil. Their roots also prevent soil from being washed away by heavy rains. Several species of trees have proved useful in halting the spread of deserts.

Trees also provide an important source of food and shelter for wildlife and help preserve the balance of gases in the atmosphere. A tree’s leaves absorb carbon dioxide from the air and produce oxygen and release it into the atmosphere. These two processes are necessary for people to live. People could not survive if the air had too much dioxide or too little oxygen.

Regarding the trees, as we have been taught these factors since our childhood, we are tree lovers. We grow more trees today to make the coming generations know the value of trees and forests. Being a tree lover, I cannot express joy and satisfaction gained from growing a tree. Tree lovers have to make those who have never experienced it understand how it feels to plant a seed or a sapling and watch it grow. Anyone can have this sort of joy which can be experienced in planting trees.

Greening has more to it than planting trees, being an arborial, fruit-bearing of flowering. Within or out of the national Arbour Month, we must grow more trees.

Our forefathers grew trees for us and we are to do so for our posterity. If this unending process is interrupted, who is to blame? We should not be the culprits for the interruption of these unending process.

Handout released by UMFCCI for experts talk show

In 2014, Myanmar will host and chair the ASEAN Summits and key ASEAN meetings that fall under the requirement of single chairmanship. Preparations are underway for this historic event, as Myanmar takes the ASEAN chair for the first time since joining the Association, Myanmar will chair ASEAN at an important juncture in the country’s history.

A vital part of the preparations for the 2014 events is to create an informed public on ASEAN issues and priorities. This will help to challenge and invigorate discussions carried out among policy-makers, businesses and research communities as well as in the media. A deeper understanding and appreciation of ASEAN processes, events and initiatives will also help the general public relate to regional and global trends and developments in tandem with the reforms taking place in Myanmar.

The overall aim of this event is to inform and challenge listeners and the general public of Myanmar in an interactive forum, where the audience can pose questions to leading experts. For this purpose, the talk show will be held in Myanmar language (no translation service will be provided). The event also serves as a forum to exchange opinions and knowledge on ASEAN matters.

The talk show will commence by setting out the issues of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community (Political-Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community). At the end of each pillar presentation, a talk show would roundtable discussion on the specific pillar will follow. The talk show will comprise a moderated discussion on ASEAN issues and priorities with relevance to Myanmar’s reform process.—NLM

NAME Changed to "Bago Region Chief Minister receives foreign guests"

Yangon, 12 July—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win held talks with JICA senior representative Mr Kyosuke Inada at the meeting hall of Region Government Office on 10 July and a delegation led by Chairman Dato’ Tan Heng Chew of Tan Chong Group Co of Malaysia at the same venue, yesterday separately. The meetings focused on the investments in the region.

Undertakings of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on paying... (from page 16)

S i n g a p o r e g o v e r n m e n t in accordance with the guidance of the Ministry of Finance. And there are people who got tax exemptions from 1-1-2013 to 201-6-2013. Similarly, the government has collected income taxes from those who are working in the foreign countries since tax exemptions as of 1-1-2012. Income taxes which were levied on citizens who are working in Singapore before 31-12-2011. 4. Thus, Myanmar citizens working in Singapore are fully enjoying the benefits as per the law. And taxpayers’ money are sent daily to the Ministry of Finance through United Overseas Bank. As regards the public complaints this is the public information on undertakings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on public complaints.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Work coord meeting on Inlay Lake Conservation held**

NYAUNGSHWE, 12 July—Awkward coordination meeting on conservation of Inlay Lake was held at the hall of the Intha Literature, Culture and Rural Development Group of Nyaungshwe on 9 July.

Intha National Race Affairs Minister U Win Myint addressed the meeting. Inlay Lake Greening Project’s Assistant Director U Kyin Tun and Manager U Htin Paw Oo of Inlay Lake Project and National Project and the respective organizations presented their work plans.

The eight organizations will implement Inlay Lake Conservation Project in Nyaungshwe, Kalaw and Pindaya Townships.

Kyemon-Nay Myo Thuraein (Nyaungshwe)

**Paddy transplanting skills demonstrated**

Dawei, 12 July—The educative farming tasks has been introduced to produce more agriculture products and to transform manual into mechanized farming with the assistance of Taninthayi Region Government.

Under the supervision of Region Agricultural Mechanization Department and Region Agriculture Department, the monsoon paddy transplanting skills were demonstrated at eight-acre farmland of farmer U Than Sein at holdings No. 198, Kanaingdar Farm No. 136 in Kanaingdar village-tract in Dawei Township on 7 July. It was also attended by the Head of Region Agricultural Mechanization Department, staff, the ward administrator, farmer and villagers.

Kyemon-U Sein Win

**Over 10,000 baskets of rice from Kalay flow into Chin State every month**

Kalay, 12 July—Over 10,000 baskets of rice are flowing into Chin State every year as the hilly state has not enough farmland to grow rice for feeding the people there.

Chin State buys food stuff and provisions including rice, oil, salt and sugar, clothes, and construction materials from Kalay while trading its fruits including apple, grape and orange with Kalay since many years ago.

A businessman who runs rice brokerage said he has to trade around 6000 bags of rice with Haka, capital city of Chin State, over 5000 bags of rice with Thanlunag, over 2000 bags of rice with Falam, over 2000 bags of rice with Tiddim and over 1000 bags with Reethorda and Tonzang every month.

Kyemon-Wun Yan Kha (Tekkatho)

**Traditional medicine hospital wins heart of people in Monywa**

Monywa, 12 July—Myanmar Traditional Medicine Hospital in Monywais providing health care services to about 75 patients daily, said Medical Superintendent U Nay Aung.

Traditional medicine practitioners disseminate health knowledge to the local people by holding the educative talks. Moreover, they station at the monasteries in Monywa for providing health care to members of the Sangha twice a month.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

**Cargo-loaded light truck overturns in Hsipaw**

Hsipaw, 12 July—A cargo-loaded light truck heading to Lashio from Mandalay overturned near Myitzzima Tea shop and Kitsuwar grocery store in Panteintawng ward at the entrance to Hsipaw of Shan State on 9 July.

The accident damaged tea shop, grocery store and a motorcycle.

Hsipaw Police Station filed a lawsuit against the driver.

Kyemon—Sat (Hsipaw)

**Road repaved at Monywa Home for the Aged**

MONYWA, 12 July—The road at Monywa Home for the Aged located on 12.15 acres of land at the corner of Pyidaungsu Road and Than Street in Nyaungbinzauk Ward of Monywa has been completed nearing cent per cent.

K 8 million fund of over K 10 million contributed by local people as of 15 September 2012 was spent on repaving the road. The remaining K 2 million will be spent on placing concrete in front of the Home Office.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

**Talks on industrial crops given in Haka**

HAKA, 12 July—A ceremony to hold talks on industrial crops took place at City Hall of Haka on 9 July in Haka of Chin State in conjunction with the opening of commercial mushroom growing course (1/2013).

Chin State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Van Thong delivered a speech, and head of Industrial Crops Development Department U Saw Byat Mahn explained the purpose of the course. A total of 30 trainees are attending five-day course which is conducted by State Industrial Crops Development Department. The course aims to reduce rural poverty rate, boost agricultural produces and extend growing of industrial crops.

Kyemon- Chin State IPRD

**Road repaved at Monywa Home for the Aged**

The asphalt road is between the entrance to the Home and the roadabout. Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and wife Daw Wai Wai Khaiing (Aye Yeik-Wa family) donated asphalt and 50 gallons of diesel for construction of the road.

Moreover, the construction committee members and local people contributed to upgrading the road as much as they can.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

**MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (083-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).

MNA
Obama claims broccoli is his favourite food

WASHINGTON, 12 July—President Barack Obama likes burgers, hot dogs and such, but when it came time to answer a kid journalist’s question about his favourite food, broccoli was the first word that sprang from his lips. This revelation came on Tuesday at a White House event that recognized children who won a healthy recipe contest, as part of first lady Michelle Obama’s anti-obesity campaign.

Having fun with the children, Obama agreed to take two questions from the journalists among them. The first asked what was Obama’s favourite food. Broccoli was the presidential reply, according to a White House aide.

This from a politician who has literally eaten his way across the country: Burgers in a Washington suburb with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev; ribs in Asheville, North Carolina; hot dogs at a basketball game in Dayton, Ohio; and a tasty pastry called a kringle in Wisconsin. Obama’s disclosure puts him starkly at odds with the culinary tastes of George HW Bush, who as President famously declared his dislike for broccoli.

“And I haven’t liked it ever since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I’m president of the United States, and I’m not going to eat any more broccoli!” Bush said in 1990.

US requires more flight hours for pilots after Asiana crash

WASHINGTON, 12 July—The US Federal Aviation Administration announced on Wednesday it would increase the required flying hours for co-pilots significantly, four days after the deadly crash landing of an Asiana 777.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it would require co-pilots, also known as first officers, to have 1,500 hours of flight training for their certification to fly US passenger and cargo airlines, which is a huge jump from the 250 flight hours previously required.

The rule also requires co-pilots to have an aircraft type rating, which involves additional training and testing specific to the airplanes they fly.

“We owe it to the travelling public to have only the most qualified and best trained pilots,” said Anthony Foxx, the new US Transportation Secretary in a statement.

The announcement comes four days after the Asiana Airlines crash in San Francisco that killed two Chinese passengers and wounded more than 180 people. The Boeing 777-200 aircraft carried 162 crew members and 291 passengers, including 141 Chinese, 77 citizens from the Republic of Korea and 61 Americans.

The National Transportation Safety Board has said the Asiana airplane was flying too slowly as it attempted to land at San Francisco International Airport. The agency has also revealed that the pilots of the airplane discussed aborting the landing seconds before the plane crashed into the ground.

Employees of the expansion project of the Panama Canal work on the new set of locks in the Cocoli sector, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 10 July, 2013. It’s expected that the Atlantic side of the expansion will be finished by December 2014, and the Pacific side mid-2015, according to the local Press. —Xinhua

Russian protest leader Navalny briefly detained

MOSCOW, 12 July—Russian police briefly detained anti-graft blogger Alexei Navalny on Wednesday after the prominent critic of President Vladimir Putin submitted documents to register as a candidate for the Moscow mayoral election in September.

Navalny, 37, who is accused of embezzling funds from a state firm and faces six years imprisonment in a trial due to end next week, had been greeting several hundred supporters after leaving the election committee when he was dragged into a police van.

Surrounding the van to prevent it driving away, the crowd chanted “Shame!” and “Navalny is our mayor!” “It is as bizarre for me as it is for all of you,” Navalny said after being released. “I am grateful to those people who blocked the (police) bus and prevented it from leaving.”

Gunmen open fire on Egyptian military commander in Sinai

CAIRO, 12 July—Gunmen opened fire on top Egyptian military commander in Sheikh Zuwayd area in Sinai, midnight spokesman said on Wednesday.

Gunmen in a car coming from Rafah borders area attacked the convoy of the Commander of the Second Field Army, General Ahmed Wasfy, who was inspecting the security personnel at the area.

The commander’s guards exchanged fire with the attackers and arrested the driver of the car, while other attackers ran away.

The guards seized the attackers’ car in which they found an injured child who died after she was transferred to Arish hospital. Two guns and a US made field binoculars were found in the car. Security forces are in hunt for the escaped terrorists. Early in the day at least two Egyptians including an army recruit were killed and six others were injured in another armed attack by extremists in North Sinai, near the border with Israel.

US President Barack Obama greets at the second annual “Kids’ State Dinner”; to honour the winners of a nationwide recipe challenge to promote healthy lunches, at the White House in Washington on 9 July. —Reuters

Results of NASCAR competition

Race: 10

Odometer: 3,000
200 inmates escape from Indonesian prison amid riot

Nepal Army officers get a taste of China

Radioactive water dumped into river for agricultural water in Fukushima

LDP’s efforts to mobilize women fail to impress working mothers
Civilian plane impounded for penetrating military airspace in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 12 July—The South African armed forces on Wednesday announced a civilian plane had been impounded for flying into the military airspace.

Without the air clearance, the plane invaded the military airspace at the Waterkloof Air Base on Tuesday night, said the South African National Defence Force (SADF) in a statement. The Waterkloof Air Base is situated on the outskirts of the administrative capital of Pretoria, the busiest and most important air base in South Africa.

Three occupants of the plane had been arrested and sent to a police station for investigation, the statement said. The pilot of the grounded plane was an Austrian national, claiming he was practicing as a night flight cadet, according to the SADF.

The plane was registered in South Africa, belonging to a flight training school in Johannesburg.

Denying the intentional intrusion into the military airspace, the police said he lost his orientation as he was flying on Tuesday night, mistakenly entering the military airspace due to the distraction.

However, the disorientation of a pilot would face serious consequences. It is possible for a disoriented civil plane entering a military airspace to be shot down as an invading hostile target.—Xinhua

19 killed, 16 injured in Peru road crash

LIMA, 12 July—At least 19 people were killed and 16 others injured on Wednesday when a bus they were travelling in fell off a cliff in the Peruvian Andes, said the police. The tragedy occurred early Wednesday on a stretch of highway known as “Mal Paso” (bad passage) near the town of Colcabamba in the Cajamarca Province.

The bus was carrying 40 to 45 passengers when it lost control and plunged 300 metres into the cliff, said the Highway Police. The driver of the bus appeared to have been competing with another bus of the same company to see which vehicle could pass first through a blind curve along the stretch of road, it said. The accident site is distant and remote, a fact that hinders efforts to rescue the survivors and retrieve bodies.—Xinhua

United Nations, 12 July—The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Wednesday strongly condemned roadside bombing in the country, which killed some women and children, a spokesman said.

The attack head of the Mission, Nicholas Haysom, said that he is deeply disturbed by the continued killing of Afghan civilians by improvised explosive devices, UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky told reporters at a daily news briefing.

The Mission said that the use of such tactics, which fail to distinguish between civilians and combatants, is a violation of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes, according to the spokesman.

Haysom reiterated the call by the Mission upon all parties to the conflict to respect the sanctity of this holy month of Ramadan, and avoid actions which could harm civilians, Nesirky said. Up to 17 people, including 12 women and four children, were killed on Tuesday when a vehicle was struck by roadside bombing in the western Afghan Province of Herat.

Taliban militants have been largely relying on roadside bombing and suicide attacks in fighting Afghan security force and NATO-led troops based in Afghanistan, often causing civilian casualties.—Xinhua

Teenage relative arrested in death of autistic California boy

LOS ANGELES, 12 July—Remains fitting the description of a missing autistic boy were found buried in a shallow grave near his California home on Wednesday, police said, and a 16-year-old family member was arrested on suspicion of murder.

Captain John Hill, acting police chief of Menifee, California, said the remains had not yet been formally identified as the missing 11-year-old, Terry Smith, but appeared to belong to a male juvenile.

Police declined to name the suspect, citing the ongoing investigation, but said he is a 16-year-old relative of the missing boy who was taken into custody on suspicion of murder following an interview by detectives. “One of the things I want to stress is that this is a domestic issue within that residence, and that there is no stranger in the city of Menifee that caused this to happen,” Hill said at a news conference.

Terry Smith was reported missing from his home in Menifee, about 80 miles east of Los Angeles, on Sunday morning, prompting a search by authorities using helicopters and bloodhounds that was assisted by local volunteers. The Riverside County Sheriff’s Department has released the boy’s photograph, said the boy was last seen alive by his older brother between 7:30 pm and 9 pm on Saturday and that his mother contacted police when she did not find him in bed mid-morning the following day.

Hill said investigators went to the home early on Wednesday morning after receiving a report that possible human remains had been spotted there by a volunteer search, then found the partially exposed body.

He said police conducted multiple searches of the property using dogs and volunteers after the boy was reported missing, but did not explain how the remains were not found earlier. “Sometimes it takes awhile for us to put all the puzzle pieces together in a circumstance like this,” he said.

Local television news images showed forensic technicians working under a green tarp to remove the remains from dirt about 75 feet from the home and load the remains into a coroner’s van with darkened windows.—Reuters
Honouring opera to ‘Star Wars’, Obama awards arts medals to 24

WASHINGTON, 12 July — Citing the power of artists and academics to open minds, President Barack Obama on Wednesday awarded 24 medals to people including “Star Wars” creator George Lucas and writer Joan Didion who he said touched his life and the lives of Americans.

They challenged us to think and to question and to discover, to seek that inward significance,” Obama said, awarding the winners of the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

This year’s winners included filmmaker George Lucas, creator of “Star Wars,” whom Obama applauded for transforming movies. “I remember when I first saw ‘Star Wars,’ Obama said. “There’s a whole generation that thinks special effects always look like they do today. But it used to be you’d see, like, the string on the little model spaceships.”

Obama, known for his love of basketball and football, seemed particularly tickled to award a medal to Frank Deford, the legendary sportswriter who has spent 50 years at Sports Illustrated.

“Frank, I grew up reading Sports Illustrated, and I think it was very good for me,” Obama said, to laughter. He praised the winners for working hard and following their dreams against the odds.

One of the most poignant moments of the ceremony came when Obama strode to the edge of the stage to meet author Joan Didion, 78, frail and elegant, carefully lifting the thick red ribbon holding the palm-sized humanities medal over her neck.

“Today, decades into her career, she remains one of our sharpest and most respected observers of American politics and culture,” Obama said, describing how Didion taught herself to read as her family moved frequently around the country with her father, who was an Army officer.

He cited the courage shown by Ernest Gaines, the descendent of Louisiana sharecroppers, who writes about the lives of African Americans, and blues and jazz musician Allen Toussaint, who helped revive his native New Orleans with music after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Washington, 12 July — The $50 million award was only 76 albums to climb from No 2 to No 1 made the relatively rare climb of 350,000 copies last week, according to figures from mid-week sales projections.

R&B singer Joe landed at No 6 with his latest “Doubled topping the Billboard 200 this week. R&B singer Joe landed at No 6 with his latest “Doubled" Evolution of R&B.”

“Returning home is humbling. My being here is not political, it’s emotional. I grew up here. I went to school here. I met my wife here,” he said.

Los Angeles, 12 July — Rock star Jon Bon Jovi has donated USD 1 million to the New Jersey Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. "Returning home is humbling. My being here is not political, it’s emotional. I grew up here. I went to school here. I met my wife here,” he said.

Los Angeles, 12 July — Madonna took me up,” femalefirst.co.uk quoted Gyllenhaal as saying. “I grew up here. I went to school here. I met my wife here,” he said.

Los Angeles, 12 July — Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal says she is still not used to the cut-throat nature of competition in Hollywood.

Los Angeles, 12 July — Actor Russell Crowe is keen to star in the Man of Steel prequel. The 49-year-old actor, who played Superman’s biological father in the new movie, revealed on Twitter that he is all set to “give the tights another go” if Legendary Pictures plan to make another version of the film, reported Contactmusic.

“Returning home is humbling. My being here is not political, it’s emotional. I grew up here. I went to school here. I met my wife here,” he said.

Los Angeles, 12 July — The 51-year-old singer visited his hometown and spent time comforting the area’s residents.

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New Light of Myanmar

SPORTS

Napoli sign Spanish forward Callejon from Real Madrid

MANCHESTER, 12 July — Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney faces a month on the sidelines after suffering a hamstring injury training in Thailand on their tour of the Far East and Australia, the English champions said on Thursday.

The 27-year-old will be doubtful for the Community Shield clash with FA Cup winners Wigan Athletic at Wembley in the traditional season curtain raiser on 11 August before United begin their Premier League title defence at Swansea City a week later.

He could also miss England’s friendly with Scotland at Wembley on 14 August.

“Following a scan this evening on a hamstring injury sustained in training, it has been decided that Wayne Rooney should return home immediately for further assessment and rehabilitation,” United said on their website (www.manutd.com).

“It is anticipated he will be unavailable for selection for a month,” added the statement as Rooney prepared to fly back to England from Bangkok for treatment.

Rooney has been the subject of transfer speculation since retired United manager Alex Ferguson said at the end of last season the England forward had asked to leave the club. However, new United coach Moyes reiterated on Wednesday the striker was not for sale and would not be leaving Old Trafford. —Reuters

Flawless Johnson in tie for John Deere lead

LOS ANGELES, 12 July — Rejuvenated by improved form with his driver, Zach Johnson made a strong start to his title defence at the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Illinois as he surged into a share of the lead in Thursday’s opening round.

The 37-year-old American piled up seven birdies in a flawless display for a sizzling seven-under-par 64 at the TPC Deere Run, finishing joint top with Colombia’s Camilo Villegas.

Burly Zimbabwean Brendon de Jonge was a further stroke back, mixing four birdies with an eagle on the par-five 10th to end the round level with Americans Matt Bettencourt and Daniel Summerhays.

Most eyes, however, will be firmly focused on Johnson who triumphed here last year with a birdie on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff to edge out compatriot Troy Matteson. Johnson has now posted sub-70 scores in his last 17 competitive rounds on the par-71 layout.

“I am very pleased,” Johnson, a nine-times winner on the PGA Tour, told Golf Channel after making 14 greens.

“It is antic

Rafa will come back. He has no fear of the (hard court) surface—he has nothing more to lose.‘Toni Nadal told SID, an AFP subsidiary, at the ATP tournament in Stuttgart.

Currently Rafa is doing physical training, but no racquet workouts. The break is important—he has played enough.”

According to his uncle, Nadal, who is at home in Mallorca, will return to the tour on 5 August when he plays at the Montreal Masters, then Cincinnati, which starts 12 August, before the US Open in New York.

Prior to Wimbledon, Nadal had reached the final of all nine tournaments he had entered since his return from a seven-month injury lay-off, winning seven of them — including his eighth French Open title and the Masters in Indian Wells. —PTI

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“I am very pleased,” Johnson, a nine-times winner on the PGA Tour, told Golf Channel after making 14 greens. “Very few mistakes, one maybe two errant shots. I was very much in control, and very in control on the greens. “Hit my driver beautifully, putted great and gave myself a lot of good opportunities. That’s all you can ask for. Hopefully I can just continue that consistency for the remainder of the week.”

Johnson was especially pleased with his driving, a component of his game which gave him trouble early on this season when he missed the cut three times in his first seven PGA Tour events. —Reuters

Real Madrid’s Jose Callejon celebrates his goal against Ajax Amsterdam during their Champions League Group D soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 4 Dec, 2012. —Reuters

Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola confirms interest in Thiago Alcantara

RIVA DEL GARDA, Italy, 12 July — Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola on Thursday confirmed the European champions’ interest in Barcelona midfielder Thiago Alcantara.

Spanish media had already linked the 22-year-old Alcantara to the Champions League winners and ex-Barcelona coach Guardiola has admitted he has asked the Bavarian giants to sign the midfielder.

“Yes, I’m interested in Thiago Alcantara, I have asked (Bayern to get him),” said Guardiola at Bayern’s pre-season training camp in north Italy.

“I know him very, very well. He’s a great player and can cover three, four, five positions.” “I have talked to (chairman Karl-Heinz) Rummenigge and (director of sport Matthias) Sammer, we will have to see.”

Thiago is the only player I want, it will be him or no one. “We have many players, but we need the special qualities Thiago Alcantara brings.”

Both Manchester United and Real Madrid have been linked to Alcantara, who has a market value of around 20 million euros (US$26m) and captained Spain Under-21 to the European title and was voted player of the tournament. Alcantara, who has a contract at Barcelona until the end of May, scored a first-half hat-trick as Spain beat Italy 4-2 in the European Under-21 Championships in Jerusalem last month, Bayern already have several midfield stars with German-Roger Goetze signed from Borussia Dortmund, plus Holm’s Arjen Robben, France’s Franck Ribery, Thomas Muller, Toni Kroos and Swiss Xherdan Shaqiri vying for places.

“I don’t think adding another midfielder will be a problem for us,” said Guardiola.

Rafael Nadal will bounce back for US Open, says coach

STUTTGART, Germany, 12 July — Rafael Nadal will bounce back from his shock first-round exit at Wimbledon in time for the US Open next month, his coach insisted on Thursday. The 27-year-old French Open champion suffered his earliest exit at a major when he was stunned by Belgium’s Steve Darcis on the first day of Wimbledon.

His straight-sets defeat to Darcis, ranked 135th in the world, led to speculation about the impact of the clay-court season on a previous injury, an inflammation of the knee cap, which curtailed Nadal’s 2012 campaign.

But his uncle and coach Toni has insisted that the 12-time Grand Slam champion will ease himself back into his training regime in time for the US Open, which begins on 26 August.

“Rafa will come back. He has no fear of the (hard court) surface—he has nothing more to lose,” Toni Nadal told SID, an AFP subsidiary, at the ATP tournament in Stuttgart.

Currently Rafa is doing physical training, but no racquet workouts. The break is important—he has played enough.”

According to his uncle, Nadal, who is at home in Mallorca, will return to the tour on 5 August when he plays at the Montreal Masters, then Cincinnati, which starts 12 August, before the US Open in New York.

Prior to Wimbledon, Nadal had reached the final of all nine tournaments he had entered since his return from a seven-month injury lay-off, winning seven of them — including his eighth French Open title and the Masters in Indian Wells. —PTI

14 Saturday, 13 July, 2013

Real Madrid's Jose Callejon celebrates his goal against Ajax Amsterdam during their Champions League Group D soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 4 Dec, 2012. —Reuters

Man United's Rooney out for a month with injury

FLORIDA, 13 July—Wayne Rooney is out for a month with injury after suffering a hamstring strain in training, Manchester United said on their website (www.manchesterunited.com).

Rooney has been the subject of transfer speculation since retired United manager Alex Ferguson said at the end of last season the England forward had asked to leave the club. However, new United coach Moyes reiterated on Wednesday the striker was not for sale and would not be leaving Old Trafford. —Reuters
Bayern’s Pep Guardiola explains his resignation from Barcelona

RIVA DEL GADDA, (Italy), 12 July — Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola finally shed some light on his resignation at Barca on Thursday — and confirmed he hoped to raid his old club for midfielder Thiago Alcantara.

Guardiola, 42, quit as head coach at Barca after winning 14 titles during his four-year reign at the Camp Nou between 2008 and 2012.

“After four years the desire was gone in Barcelo —” Guardiola said — “I think Bayern’s training camp in northern Italy.

The same players, the same opponents, the same journalists, the same games.

US “Operation Wild Web” targets illegal trade of endangered animal species, parts

LOS ANGELES, 12 July — Rene De La Peza was unaware that he had become a target of under cover US agents when he advertised to sell a jaguar skin on Craigslist, a shopping website.

Peza and five other residents in Southern California have been arrested and charged with selling endangered animal species and parts, including tiger and bear skin, jaguar skin, pelts taken from wild cats, etc., the US district attorney’s office said on Thursday.

US law enforcement agencies have launched an under cover operation dubbed “Wild Web” to target offenders who use the Internet to advertise and sell endangered animal species and parts.

Peza, 42, of Hacienda Heights in Southern California, was caught red-handed when he tried to sell a jaguar skin for $15,000 dollars after advertising the item on Craigslist.

If convicted, Peza could be sent to federal prison for up to one year.

According to the US district attorney’s office, Hanna Karim, 44, and his wife, Margarita Licombros, 36, were accused of selling a Sumatran Tiger skin for $8,000 dollars after the item was advertised on Craigslist.

Michael Roy McIntire, 59, was accused of selling three migratory bird mounts in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

All migratory birds, such as the birds involved in this case — a canvas-back, a cinnamon teal and a mallard, are all protected under treaties between the United States, Russia, Canada and Mexico. Even legally hunted birds cannot be sold.

Rodrigo Macedo, 29, was accused of selling two Western Scrub Jays in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a charge that carries a maximum penalty of six months in federal prison.

Lewis Keifer, 42, a resident of the Hancock Park District of Los Angeles, was charged with a felony offense of illegally trafficking wildlife for allegedly selling a pair of seal fur moccasins for $750 dollars last August.

The complaint affidavit also alleged that he sold three native American dolls, one said to be made of whale bone, and three bags, one made of seal fur, to an undercover agent last December. If convicted, Keifer would face a maximum penalty of five years in prison, according to the US attorney’s office.

Pedestrians walk amid high temperatures in front of JR Tokyo Station in the Japanese capital on 12 July, 2013. A heat wave continued in the Japanese archipelago, with temperature hitting more than 35 °C before noon the same day in parts of Shizuoka, Mie, Hyogo, and Toyama prefectures. — KYODO

Two drown as boat capsizes in swelling river in E India

NEW DELHI, 12 July — At least 10 people, including nine children, have drowned as a boat capsized in a swelling river in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, said police on Friday.

The incident took place at a tributary of the Kosi river on Thursday night in Almagnar of Madhubpur District in the state. The boat is said to be overloaded. Water level in the Kosi river, known for causing flooding during the monsoon season, has been rising due to rains this week. Boat capsizing takes place frequently in India due to overpacking, water torrent in the rivers and bad boat conditions.

Caraga region police spokesperson Martin Gamba said on Thursday.

The rebel group last 30 June village official kidnapped by Army (NPA) has released a pines), 12 July — Left-

Endangered animal species, parts, including tiger and bear skin, jaguar skin, pelts, have been listed as endangered wildlife for sale.

If convicted, Peza and five other residents in Southern California have been arrested and charged with selling endangered animal species and parts, including tiger and bear skin, jaguar skin, pelts taken from wild cats, etc.

If convicted, Peza could be sent to federal prison for up to one year.

The police spokesperson Martin Gamba said that Edgar Bautuan, a town official in Guiting, had already linked the 22-year-old with a move to Bayern after advertising his has already asked the Barca giants to sign the midfielder.

“Yeah, I want Thiago Alcantara, I have asked (Bayern to get him),” he said.

“I know him very, very well. He’s a great player and can cover three, four, five positions.

“I have talked to (chairman Karl-Heinz) Rummenenge and (director of sport Matthias) Sammer, we will have to wait and see.

“This is the only player I want, it will be him or no one.

“We have many players but we need the special qualities that Thiago Alcantara brings.” — PTI

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Navy and Air) General
Chief of
Commander-in-Chief
Chief of Defence Services
here, this afternoon.
On behalf of the
Defence Services,
(2) Peace-making Group at
Region Command,
State Chief Minister U
Shan State (East) this
commander of Triangle
Nay Pyi Taw Command, managers and golfers from
Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course,
and Thailand attended the
ceremony. First, Vice-Senior
Win presented
tournament and second prize and
Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General
Hla Htay Win, senior
military officers from the
prize awarding for four-

golf tournament held

Prize awarding for invitational friendly golf tournament held

Union Peace-making Work Committee enters peace talks with “Wa” Special Region (2) Peace-making Group

Vice-Chairman
U Thein Zaw of
Union Peace-Making
Work Committee and
an official of “Wa”
Special Region (2)
Peace-Making Group
exchange notes at the
peace talks.—MNA

Agreement between Union Peace-Making Work Committee and “Wa” Special Region (2) at peace talks in Kengtung on 12 July 2013

1. Follow the agreements
2. Maintain the already-
achieved mutual
understandings, trust and fine tradition of
peace and continue

Complaints for bribery and corruption

Complaints about bribery and corruption can be addressed to the Anti-Corruption Committee, the President Office at Office No. 18, Nay Pyi Taw, by anyone with his/her name, NCC No., address and firm evidence.

Action will be taken against those who got involved in bribery and corruption in accordance with the law after a thorough investigation.

Undertakings of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on paying income tax at Myanmar Embassy in Singapore and providing legal rights to overseas Myanmar workers in ADTA member countries

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has already announced the Notification No 57/2011 dated 21, December 2011, declaring that the income tax of the overseas Myanmar citizens are abolished as from 1st, January 2012. To draw new passports, Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries shall have to pay income tax till 31, December 2011.

2. Regarding the Agreement of Double Taxation Avoidance between the Republic of Myanmar and Singapore, no tax is withheld on those who have paid taxes to the
(See page 8)